ANSARI): (a) Yes, Sir. The project was rejected from the environmental angle in October, 1987 due to non-availability of viable Action Plans for Catchment Area Treatment, Compensatory Afforestation, Command Area Development and Rehabilitation including land for land compensation. The project also involves diversion of forest land.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir. The project is expected to provide irrigation and power and also supply water to the industrial complex at Vishakhapatnam.

Raising of freedom fighters' pension amount

*194. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to raise the amount of freedom fighters' pension; and

(b) if so, by when a decision is likely to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) and (b) No decision has been taken so far in this regard.

Recovery of dues from M/s. ITC Limited

*195. SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:

SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Board of Excise and Customs had, in a circular issued on the 23rd April, 1988 directed all the Principal Collectors and Collectorate of Central Excise to issue demand notices to all the units of ITC;

(b) if so, when the demand notices were issued to ITC units, stating the amount involved;

(c) what follow-up action has been taken to recover the amount, stating the recovery made so far and the reasons for the non-recovery of the remaining dues; and

(d) the manner in which Government propose to recover the outstanding dues from ITC units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) No such circular was issued on the 23rd April, 1988. However a circular dated 21st March, 1988 was issued to all Collectors of Central Excise communicating the advice of the Ministry of Law in regard to the determination of assessable value in cases where additional consideration is received by the manufacturer over and above the price charged. In respect of the cases against M/s I.T.C. Ltd. the Collectors were asked to take necessary action in the light of the advice of Ministry of Law.

(b) Demand notices were issued to the units of M/s. I.T.C. Ltd. as under:

Collectorate	Date of issue of demand notice	Amount of duty demanded (Rs. in crores approximately)
Meerut . .	28.4.1988	80.30
*Bangalore .	29.9.1987	27.58
Patna . .	16.6.1988	2.50
Calcutta . .	27.7.1988	0.47

*In Bangalore Collectorate the demand was issued before the issue of Circular dated 21.3.1988.

(c) An on account payment of Rs. 14.78 crores approximately has been made by M/s. I.T.C. Limited before issue of the circular dt 21.3.1988.

In respect of the demand issued to the ITC unit in Meerut Collectorate,